

COMMEMORATION OF THE  
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2001*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, a horrific event in world history that took the lives of 1.5 million Armenians and tore the Armenian nation from its historic homeland.

The Armenian Genocide, the first act of genocide in the twentieth century, is emblematic of the high human cost of senseless hatred and prejudice. I join my colleagues today, in solidarity with the Armenian-American community and with Armenians throughout the world, to commemorate this dark period in human history and to ensure we take to heart the lessons learned from this tragedy. The legacy of those who were lost must be our pledge to remember—and to prevent such an episode from happening again.

We have already learned the lessons of forgetting. The indifference of the world to human suffering and the slaughter of 1.5 million Armenians set the stage for the Holocaust, ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, and other tragic events of a massive scale. Today's commemoration comes too late for those who have already fallen victim to blind hatred. But we hope and pray that it is not too late for those in danger around the world.

As we recall the Armenian Genocide and mourn its victims, we renew our pledge to the Armenian nation to do everything we can to prevent further aggression, and we renew our commitment to ensuring that Armenians throughout the world can live free of threats to their existence and prosperity.

Unfortunately, we must still work toward this simple goal. Azerbaijan continues to blockade Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh, denying the Armenian people the food, medicine, and other humanitarian assistance they need to lead secure, prosperous lives. The United States has taken a leadership role in trying to bring the blockade to an end and crafting a solution to this tragic conflict. As we look forward to a new round of proximity talks in June, we are filled with hope that this year we will see peace and stability in the Caucasus.

Mr. Speaker, the Armenian people have shown true resilience in confronting the many obstacles they have faced in the last century. From the ashes of the Genocide, Armenians have become a strong people, making great contributions throughout the world. In the words of Armenian-American author William Saroyan, "when two of them meet anywhere in the world, see if they will not create a New Armenia."

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in hoping that we will soon see a "New Armenia," and in pledging to hasten its arrival.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2001*

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 96, I inadvertently voted no. I am a cosponsor

of H.R. 10, the Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act of 2001 and strongly support its enactment.

I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD reflect that my vote on final passage should have been "yea."

## AN ARTISTIC DISCOVERY

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2001*

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my deepest appreciation for some of the most dedicated people I know. This last weekend, I held an art competition for high school students in the 5th Congressional District called "An Artistic Discovery". Eight schools and over 50 children participated in the competition, producing some of the most creative, innovative pieces of art I've ever seen. All of these future artists deserve to be recognized.

Today however, I rise to pay respect to the behind-the-scene heroes of "An Artistic Discovery"—the teachers. The dedication these teachers have for their students, art, and for teaching doesn't come from a textbook, or from years of experience. The pride that radiated from these teachers faces when their students stood next to their artwork came from deep inside their soul.

On this day, Teacher Appreciation Day, I would like to show my appreciation for the teachers who put so much work into making "An Artistic Discovery" a success. Several teachers helped to make this event possible, including: Karin Hughes from South Salem, Lynn Pass from West Linn, John Allgood from Gladstone, John Beck of Dallas, Judy Frohreich of Stayton, Wendy Edginton of Clackamas, John Widder of Tillamook, and Donna Hues of John F. Kennedy High School in Mt. Angel.

Without these teachers, their students would have missed out on the opportunity to display their wonderful artwork and we would have missed the chance to enjoy it.

IN HONOR OF FLORIDA TAX  
FREEDOM DAY 2001**HON. ANDER CRENSHAW**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2001*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, starting today, the average hard-working Floridian starts to work for himself and his family.

Today is Florida's Tax Freedom Day. On average, for the last 128 days, Floridians have been working to earn the money they need to pay their federal, state, and local taxes. In other parts of the country, where state and local taxes are higher, Tax Freedom Day still hasn't come.

Mr. Speaker, last week we hit the American average—May 3 was National Tax Freedom Day. That means it takes 123 days for the average American to earn enough to pay their tax bills. Curiously, it only takes 106 days for them to earn enough to pay for their food, shelter, and clothing combined, proof of the

fact that Americans pay more in taxes than for these necessities. In 1992, National Tax Freedom Day was nearly a whole month earlier—April 18. The hard-working, American taxpayers deserve a break!

Given the significance of the day, it is perhaps fitting that we are considering the budget conference report. That package includes \$1.35 trillion in tax relief for all American taxpayers. With this tax relief, they can begin to earn for themselves a little sooner, and to plan for their priorities and their needs a little earlier.

In fact, current forecasts—under the assumption that there are no changes in the tax laws—have National Tax Freedom Day in 2011 falling on May 10. But, if the Bush tax relief package were passed, that date would be pulled back to May 5. In Washington terms, where we throw around numbers in the millions, billions, and trillions everyday, five days may not seem like much. But, to the family living paycheck to paycheck or trying to set aside a little bit in personal savings for the future, it means a lot.

It is in their honor, Mr. Speaker, that I am pleased to support efforts to let them keep more of their hard-earned money in their own homes, and to support the \$1.35 trillion in tax relief in our Fiscal Year 2002 budget.

## FORT OSAGE

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 8, 2001*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of Fort Osage as a landmark identified and later developed by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark during the voyage of the Corps of Discovery.

In June of 1804, the Corps of Discovery passed a high bluff on the Missouri River—which would later become Fort Osage in Jackson County, Missouri. Only four years later, Clark returned to initiate construction on a Fort and trading-house under the direction of the War Department. Clark noted "The River could be completely defended" and he deemed the "situation elegant."

Fort Osage (or Fort Clark as it was originally named) played an important role in the exploration and development of the West. Goods were traded with the Osage, Ayaaway and Kansas tribes at this site for years to come. Fort Osage proved to be the single most profitable trading post of its kind in the United States and the territories. We are indebted to the legacy of the Fort and the people who lived, worked and defended the Fort. Their courage had a profound effect on the evolution of our nation.

As part of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration, Jackson County Parks and Recreation is proposing an innovative education center. The education center would showcase artifacts and exhibit the significance of the Missouri River. I believe this education center is a wonderful addition to the commemoration and will help visitors understand the significance of Fort Osage. It is the only site along the trail where Clark returned to develop a facility that fulfilled the goals of President Thomas Jefferson's dream of commerce and development with the west.